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International Court of Justice

H3383 - 0002

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : 22 July 1948

I certify that Document Number 3846-PS was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number USA-496 in the Trial by the International Military Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Niebergall

Fred NIEBERGALL
Chief, Document
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document 3846-PS No. USA-496 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the United States Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C. .

Nuremberg, 4 July 1948

Paul Joosten

PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

H3383 – 0004

3146-PS

FEBRUAR 1946

6 Februar 45	Freitag	1
5-6 Nächte	Sonnabend	2
	Sonntag	3
Frühjahr	Montag	4
Punt	Dienstag	5
654-80-47-	Mittwoch	6
T 11/42 O	Donnerstag	7
USNR	Freitag	8

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Gekürzte Liste der deutschen Gedenktage

9. 1. 1927 H. St. Chamberlain, Schriftsteller, gest.
10. 1. 1920 Inkrafttreten des Versailler Dikta
11. 1. 1923 Ruhreinbruch der Franzosen und Be
12. 1. 1893 Herm. Göring und Alfr. Rosenberg
15. 1. 1933 Wahlsieg der NSDAP. in Lipp
18. 1. 1871 Reichsgründungstag
24. 1. 1712 Friedrich der Große ge
24. 1. 1932 Herbert Norkus ermord
28. 1. 1923 1. Reichsparteitag der NSDAP. in München
30. 1. 1933 Adolf Hitler wird Reichskanzler
4. 2. 1936 Ermordung Wilh. Gustloffs
8. 2. 1942 Reichsminister Fritz Todt gest.
12. 2. 1804 Immanuel Kant, Philosoph, gest.
13. 2. 1883 Richard Wagner, Komponist, gest.
16. 2. 1620 Friedrich Wilhelm d. Große K
23. 2. 1930 Horst Wessel seinen Verletzungen
24. 2. 1920 Verkündung des Parteiprogramms
1. 3. 1935 Rückkehr des Saarlandes ins Reich
7. 3. 1936 Wiederbesetz. d. deutschen Wehrhoheit im Rheinland
8. 3. 1917 Graf Zeppelin gest.
12. 3. 1877 Wilhelm Frick geb.
13. 3. 1938 Gesetz üb. d. Wiedervereinigung Österreichs m. d. Deutsch. Reich
16. 3. 1935 Wiedereinführung d. allgem. Wehrpflicht
16. 3. 1939 Errichtung des Protektorats Böhmen und Mähren
21. 3. 19

USFA - WC -

SECRET

3846-PS

WCIT #6836
US Army

Alleged Occurrence: Murder of American and British Prisoners of War.

Date: On or about 24 January 1945

At: MAUTHAUSEN Concentration Camp, Austria

I N T E R R O G A T I O N

Authority: Par 21, SO 146, Hq ETOUSA, dtd 26 May 45;
Organization order #270, Hq ETOUSA dtd 24 Apr 45, AG 322, OpGC.
Par 8, SO 113, Hq USFA, dtd 27 Nov 1945

Oaths: The persons hereinafter named, as reporter, interpreter, witness, appeared before the Investigator-Examiner and each was duly sworn by him in the following respective form:

OATH ADMINISTERED TO REPORTER

"You swear that you will faithfully perform the duties of reporter in this investigation now being conducted by me, so Help you God?" Response: "I do."

OATH ADMINISTERED TO INTERPRETER

"You swear that you will truthfully interpret in this investigation now being conducted by me, so Help you God?" Response: "I do."

OATH ADMINISTERED TO WITNESS

"You swear that the evidence you shall give in this investigation now being conducted by me shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so Help you God?" Response: "I do."

Name of witness: Johann KAINDUTH

Date testimony taken: 30 November 1945

Place testimony taken: SALZBURG, Austria, Hq WCIT 6836

Investigator-Examiner: David G PASTON (Name) Lt Col (Grade) O-169428 (ASN)

Asst Investigator Cross-Examiner: William A GORDON (Name) Capt (Grade) O-115408 (ASN)

Reporter: Doris GOERTZEN (Name) Civilian (Grade) Court Reporter (ASN)

Interpreter: Louis L CROY (Name) Tec 4 (Grade) 46010206 (ASN)

TESTIMONY OF: _____

~~Direct examination by:~~

Session convened at 0900 hours

SECRET

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SECRET

3846-PS

Testimony of: LOUIS L CROY, Interpreter

Direct Examination by: Lt Col PASTON

1. Q. State your name, grade and U S Army serial number?
A. Louis L Croy, Technician Fourth Grade, 46010206.

2. Q. When and where were you born?
A. 16 April 1914, in Vienna, Austria.

3. Q. Did you speak German daily while you lived in Austria?
A. Yes.

4. Q. How long did you live in Austria?
A. Twenty five years.

5. Q. Then where did you go?
A. To the United States.

6. Q. What year?
A. 1939.

7. Q. Did you there learn to speak the English language?
A. Yes, by conversation and by going to the law school of the University of Wisconsin. I studied law at the University of Vienna, receiving a Doctor of Law degree in 1937.

8. Q. Did you practice law there?
A. I was court reporter in Vienna for one year, from March 2, 1937, to March 2, 1938. I worked six months in the Anglo-Elementar Insurance Company. I also worked for the law firm of my father for one year.

9. Q. Do you have a knowledge of English?
A. Yes.

10. Q. When you arrived in the United States did you take up the study of the English language?
A. Yes. I attended the University of Wisconsin.

11. Q. Did you graduate?
A. Yes. In June 1942.

12. Q. At the University of Wisconsin Law School only the English language was spoken, is that right?

13. Q. By completing the law course successfully, you demonstrated beyond any doubt your ability to handle the English language, is that right?
A. Yes, and I was duly admitted to practice law in the State of Wisconsin.

14. Q. You consider yourself a qualified interpreter in the English and German languages?
A. Yes.

15. Q. What are your present duties?
A. Pursuant to paragraph 26, SO 81, Headquarters USFET, APO 757, U S Army, dated 4 October 1945, I was assigned to War Crimes Investigating Team 6836 for the purpose of acting as interpreter of German into English and English into German.

ATTEST: D G Paston

D G PASTON
Lt Col, O-189428
Investigator-Examiner

Louis L Croy

SECRET

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USFA WC - 28 (KANDUTH) SECRET 3846-PS 3

Interrogation of Johann KANDUTH Salzburg, 30th Nov 1945

Direct Examination by: It Col PASTON

Q. What is your name?
A. KANDUTH Johann.

Q. Where do you live?
A. LINZ, Weissenwolfstrasse 7

Q. Have you an address in SALZBURG?
A. SALZBURG, Solleystrasse 13.

Q. Were you at any time an inmate of the concentration cam at MAUTHAUSEN?
A. Yes.

Q. During what period?
A. From the 21st of March 1939 till the 5th of May 1945

Q. Do you know why you were there?
A. No.

Q. You were there as a political prisoner, not as a common criminal?
A. That is right.

Q. Are you able to tell us of the conditions at MAUTHAUSEN?
A. Yes.

Q. Did you have various jobs to do at MAUTHAUSEN?
A. At first I was in the kitchen, afterwards I was in a disciplinary training company.

Q. What was your task in the kitchen?
A. I had to bring in potatoes, peel them, to prepare fish and to carry water and food, to hand out the meals.

Q. For whom were these meals prepared?
A. For the prisoners.

Q. Did you prepare this food too?
A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell me what was the ration for a prisoner each meal?
A.. 3/4 of turnip each meal.

Q. How many meals did the prisoners get daily?
A. Three meals.
In the morning black coffee without sugar, dinner consisted of spuds with turnips, supper of 50 gr of sausage and 1/4 kg of bread.

Q. Do you think that the food for the prisoners was good?
A. No, I don't.

Q. Why do you think that the food was not good?
A. It was not sufficient for 12 hours' work. There were often bad fish in the meals and therefore often not eatable.

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Q. Besides your work in the kitchen did you also work in the crematorium?
A. Yes.

Q. At what date did you begin your work in the crematorium?
A. From the 9th of May.

Q. What did you do there?
A. I worked the heating for the cremation of the bodies.

Q. Describe your work.
A. At first my occupation consisted of removing the bodies, then I served the heating and had to learn how to put in the corpses, then I had to stir up and to take out the ashes. This was my occupation during 4 1/2 years. Afterwards I had to fill the urns. In the first quarter of the year cremations of single persons took place, afterwards there were only mass-cremations, the ashes were thrown away. When the Americans advanced, we filled 3000 urns of Dutch Jews. We had to smash the urns afterwards and to throw the ashes away, so that every trace was wiped out.

Q. At what hour did you work in the crematorium?
A. From 3 p.m. till 10 a.m.

Q. How many days weekly?
A. This was different. It happened that there only were 7 cremations monthly. The last time we worked through day and night, I can't say how many days we had to work. Afterwards we had to clean the oven and then we were allowed to go to bed. Some days of rest followed often.

Q. How many hours daily did you usually work?
A. We usually worked 12 hours. When there was much work we had to work for 15 hours. Days followed again in which there was less work.

Q. Did you work all by yourself in the crematorium?
A. I was'nt alone.

Q. Who were the men who worked with you?
A. SUSSOCK Franz, he is dead. Then the bearers Ignaz PUKOWSKY, a certain DABETH, a Pole, he was there only half a year, whose name I don't know. Then the bearers TIEFENBACHER Alfred and POLSTER Johann.

Q. Do you know where some of them are now?
A. I only know, that TIEFENBACHER Alfred is living in INNSBRUCK and POLSTER Johann in Pottendorf near Vienna.

Q. Do you know the exact address of this man?
A. I only know this address of TIEFENBACHER.
This is the address of his aunt.
Barbara GLUECK, SALZBURG,
Pillweinstrasse 15, Gasthof Kaiserwirt.

Q. What kind of executions preceded your cremation?
A. They were shot in the back of the neck. There were also women. Some were killed in the gas-chamber. Other were killed by syringes of gasoline or Efamedem, which were given by a certain KLEIN Günther.

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Ta Kee

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Q. Do you know how many bodies you cremated?
A. Yes.
1940: 1242
1941: 1676
1942: 6523
1943: 2960
1944: 5479
1945: 9676
We had two categories the non-Jewish and the Russian prisoners. These papers I saved. But there were many additional corpses which were not cremated in the ovens. They were transported to a private crematorium at STEYR.

Q. Do these figures really represent the cremations you yourself did?
A. Yes.

Q. Did you see any kind of execution at any time?
A. Yes.

Q. When?
A. I was eye-witness of the shooting of 80 Czechs in 1942.

Q. Do you know by whom these executions were ordered?
A. The secret-order said: By order of Reichsführer SS and Chef der deutschen Polizei" or "signed KALTENBRUNNER".

Q. By whom were these executions done?
A. I did not see the actual shooting but I know who was present. TRUM Andreas /SS-Oberscharführer/, STULLER, Karl, PROKSCH? ROMMEL, SEIDEL, DUESSEN, MAIER, ROTH /he was the chief of the crematorium, KLEIN Günther /who always gave the injections/, SPATZENECKER, FASSEL, ZIRNGIEBEL, WEISSE, KOFLER, Franz, NIPPCHEN /dead/, KERETH, POLKORSKY, REICHLER, KOSCHITZKY, GISSRIEGEL /he had lead the sicks to the gas-chamber/, DOPPELREITER, STOELAN, GOCKEL /who was the most terrible/, KISCH, FARKASCH, MUELLER, Emil /Hauptscharführer/, BRUCKNER and GARTNER.

Q. Did you see ALTFULDISCH attend an execution?
A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell me the approximate date?
A. 1942 when 135 women were shot down. They were Czech.

Q. What did ALTFULDISCH do?
A. ALTFULDISCH was Obersturmführer and lead the women to the room where they undressed, afterwards he brought the next 30. They had to go to the gas-chamber.

Q. Could you get a glimpse through the window?
A. We could not see much because we were occupied with bearing out the bodies.

Q. Do you know a man named ZUTTER, the adjutant?
A. Yes.

Q. Did you see him present at an execution?
A. No, never.

Q. Do you know, what position ZUTTER had?
A. He was the adjutant of the commander.

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Q. Did you see him accompanied by ZIEREIS at any time on an execution?
A. No.

Q. Was a record made of the prisoners of CC MAUTHAUSEN who were killed by shooting, gasing, cremating or by injections?
A. Yes.

Q. I show you a note marked 1941. What does this paper represent?
A. A list of the cremations of the concentration camp for that year.

Q. Who wrote this note?
A. My comrade. He was in the crematorium "Schreiber".

Q. Did you write a part of the note?
A. Yes.

Q. How is it that you have this note?
A. Because I was ordered by Hauptscharführer ROTH just before the surprender to burn all the books in his presence.

Q. Yes, go on?
A. I had to burn all the books with notes of cremations in them. He said he needed a target. Then I had to put the books on a frame and NIEDERMAYER and ROTH took aim at them. Afterwards I took the books down and I had to throw them in the oven while he was present.

Q. Why was not this note burned with the other lists?
A. Because I saved it! It was in the writing table and I hid it in the back of a drawer.

Q. Are these notes you have shown us the orginal records which were kept at MAUTHAUSEN.
A. Yes.

Q. Write a large A on the list of 1941 and sign it.
(witness does so).

Q. On this one of 1942 a large B (The witness does so).

Q. On this one of 1943 a large C (" " " ").

Q. On the list of 1944 a large D (" " " ").
The note showing the dates from 1940 - 1943, also pencil-amendments from 1944-45, please mark with a large E and sign it.
(The witness does so).

Q. Who ordered these records kept?
A. ROTH.

Q. Why did ROTH want these?
A. Because the commanding administration wanted this. A certain KRUEGER from KONSTANZ who is the owner of a bicycle-shop was the leader.

Q. What is the name of the writer of these records?
A. Ignaz PUKOWSKY.

Q. His address?
A. I don't know, I only know he will never go over to the Russians.

Q. Do you know, if other persons killed at MAUTHAUSEN?
A. Yes.

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Q. How many and how did they die?
A. They died on transport, but I don't know surely. Their gold teeth were stolen. Many corpses have come to STEYR and we had to start new files.

Q. These notes do not show all the persons that were killed at [illegible]?
A. They are true, that 2 - 3000 were killed in the gas-chambers or on transports, we don't know the exact number.

Q. Were there any distinguished visitors present during these executions?
A. I do not know, ORNSTEIN must know, as he was present at the executions.

Q. Who cremated the bodies, your or ORNSTEIN?
A. ORNSTEIN burnt them?

Q. When you took the insigna and jewelry from the bodies, what did you do with them?
A. Hauptsturmführer ROTH stood by and told me to take off the jewelry and insigna, and they would be brought to the political department, under the charge of SCHULZ. On this occasion I took 4 or 5 indentification tags and hid them.

Q. To whom did you give them?
A. I hid them for a long time in an urn.

Q. Did you give them to ROTH?
A. No.

Q. You refer to indentification tags. Do you mean also that you hid certain jewelry such as watches or rings?
A. No, only the indentification tags.

Q. Do you know what happened to the jewelry?
A. I do not know. I gave it to ROTH and ROTH brought it down to SCHULZ of the political department, and I believe that it was burnt, in order to cover up all traces.

Q. To cover up what traces?
A. To hide the fact that they were Americans.

Q. Why do you believe that the jewelry was burnt?
A. It lay for three days in ROTH's room and then I asked him what was to be done with it and he answered: "it is no use giving it to anybody and I do not [illegible] it", and [illegible] far as I can [illegible], I [illegible] the stove and he [illegible], but [illegible] this jewelry, or something else, I cannot say.

Q. You are certain that the jewelry or part of that, taken from the Americans, was not handed over to the Adjutant ADOLF ZUTTER on the day of the execution?

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A. No, but ROTH told me that the jewelry had to be handed over to SCHULZ, at which point I mentioned that it was a pity to shoot such men, and he answered by saing: "they are spies".

Q. Did you see any of this jewelry one or two days after the execution?
A. Yes.

Q. About how many days after the shooting did you see it for the last time?
A. Two or three days.

Q. And you can definitely state that this was the same jewelry that had been taken from the bodies of the executed Americans?
A. Yes, of course I can, because I myself packed it into the box.

Q. Did you at any time list the jewelry taken from the individual body on a sheet of paper, with the name of the body from which it was taken?
A. No.

Q. Do you know whether it was customary for SCHULZ or other personnel to whom the jewelry was given, to list such possessions with the name of the deceased?
A. Yes, SCHULZ had such a list.

Q. You stated in an informal discussion to-day, that you were present at MAUTHAUSEN during a visit of KALTENBRUNNER, EIGRUBER, BALDUR von SCHIRACH, and that some or all of them re-acted in a sadistic manner during certain executions?
A. Yes, the whole staff was laughing and joking.

Q. Was this following, during, or before the execution?
A. Before and after.

Q. Did you make any comment, or did they attempt to torment or taunt the victims before the execution?
A. Yes, they taunted them with such words as: "climb up the rope, you communist swine" and " you only want to cause the downfall of our goverment".

Q. Who made these remarks?
A. EIGRUBER for certain, because I could see him and the others were also laughing, but these I could only hear.

Q. Is it true that you were close enough to witness these executions?
A. No, but I was close enough to hear the voice of EIGRUBER whose voice I recognized.

Q. About how many executions did you actually witness and by what means were the victims executed?
A. I witnessed the shooting of 22 Russian officers, by shots in the back of the neck.

Q. When? 1941/42
A. In ~~1941-42~~ upon the arrival of the first Russian P/W's, and then they discontinued this kind of shooting, because the people were still alive when they were brought to the refrigerator room.

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Q. Do you remember who performed the executions?
A. ZIERIS, STRAUSS, Dr. RICHTER and another Rottenführer, whose name I do not know.

Q. Following the executions, did you remove the bodies for cremation?
A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever notice signs of life in the bodies after they had been shot?
A. Yes, in the refrigerator room.

Q. And what did you do?
A. The commander then came into the room and the bodies were all lying around alive, and begged to be put out of their misery.

Q. And then what happened?
A. ZIERIS, Dr RICHTER, STRAUSS and the other Rottenführer then shot them. They fired about 80 shots amongst them.

Q. Did you ever know of a victim who was cremated before life was extinct?
A. Yes.

Q. Under what circumstances?
A. In 1944 at 7 o'clock in the evening, a hearse arrived from WIENER-NEUSTADT containing a coffin with corpse. SCHULZ ordered us to take out the coffin, get the fire of the crematory going, and whilst we were getting up the fire, we heard sounds like groans. SCHULZ then asked: "can you hear anything" and I replied "no, it is only the wind". He went out for a moment and I opened the door of the stove, because it all seemed so secret to me and I wanted to see something. All I saw was the leg of a man in a policeman's uniform, and at this moment I heard SCHULZ return and I banged the door to, then he remained in the room until the body was burnt to ashes.

Q. Are you sure that this moan came from the victim before life was extinct?
A. Certainly, I had to go away, because I could not stand it.

Q. Do you know the name of the victim?
A. No. I had opened the door because I wanted to see who it was and SCHULZ came back and I only had time to slam the door.

Q. In all, how many victims did you see executed?
A. I personally saw the 22 Russian P/Ws and 80 Czecks.

Q. Who performed the executions?
A. I gave you all the names on Saturday.

Q. Have you any writing in your possession which you feel might be of importance to the War Crimes?
A. Yes, I hand you a writing on the reverse side of which appears "3 December 1945" and I subscribe my name thereon.

Q. When was this writing made?
A. When I took the 4 or 5 indentification tags from the American bodies.

Q. That would have been sometime in January 1945?

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A. No. First of all I hid the tags until April 1945 then I could not keep them any longer and kept just these figures.

Q. I note that the sheet on which they are written, appears to be a page from a note book, on which appears "February 1946". Where did you secure this paper?
A. I had the original notes on another piece of paper and copied them into my note book later on. August or Sept. 1945 I think.

Session adjourned at 1200 Hours.

Session reconvened 3 December 1945
at 1600 hours.

Testimony of: Johann KANDUTH

Direct examination by: Lt Col PASTON

Q. Do you know about the announced visitors in MAUTHAUSEN?
A. Yes.

Q. Can you name some of them?
A. KALTENBRUNNER, EIGRUBER, UIBERREITER, district-leader (Gauleiter) of Steiermark, Dr. RAINER from SALZBURG, BALDUR von SCHIRACH, district-leader (Gauleiter) of VIENNA, FILLOF, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, SANO MACH, SLOWAKIA, HIMMLER, POHL, GLUECKS, by whose orders the gas chambers were built,

Q. Do you know the dates of official visits?
A. EIGRUBER was here this year for the last time. I can ascertain the other dates too, but first I must consult the others. EIGRUBER was here in February or March and ordered the shoot six firemen to be shot.

Q. Was he accompanied by other visitors?
A. ZIEREIS and BACHMAIER were with him.

Q. Did they see the cremation or the other arrangements in the camp, or at which kind of executions were they present?
A. Yes, they were present at the executions.

Q. When was it approximately?
A. EIGRUBER was there every year. The last time in March and April.

Q. The date which I told you, was it February, March or another month?
A. It was in both these months.

Q. Did you accompany EIGRUBER on his inspection?
A. No. He was just walking through and one night, at one thirty, he ordered the shooting of the six firemen from AUSSCHWITZ.

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Q. Were you present when these six men were led to the execution?
A. No, OHRENSTEIN.

Q. How did you know, that they were executed?
A. They had been detailed off in AUSSCHWITZ and were in NIEDERMAYER's bunker six weeks. They were very unkempt. Their commander saw them in the cell when he visited the camp. They were 5 Poles and a Czech. These six men were locked in, just on three days a week they were allowed to take a walk and I could talk them. Than they were shaved and I thought, that they were the poeple for the double-stove. I gave one of them a suit and in the morning I went over. "Hauptscharführer" ROTH ordered the chamber, where I had my clothing, to be cleared out. He found them with one of them. He was a Czech, 25 years old and had worked with me.

Q. How were these poeple executed?
A. I saw EIGRUBER personally when they were executed.

Q. Did you see these six men executed?
A. No.

Q. Did you burn the bodies?
A. No, OHRENSTEIN burnt them.

Q. Did you hear from OHRENSTEIN, that these six persons were executed?
A. They told me in the morning and I recongnized my clothing.

Q. Who do you mean by "they"?
A. OHRENSTEIN.

Q. Have you ever seen KALTENBRUNNER in MAUTHAUSEN on a visit at any time?
A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember when it was?
A. 1942 and 1943.

Q. Can you give it more exactly, maybe the month?
A. I do not know the date.

Q. Do you remember only this one visit in the year 1942 or 1943?
A. I remember KALTENBRUNNER three times.

Q. What year?
A. Between 1942 and 1943.

Q. Tell us in short, what did you think about these visits of KALTENBRUNNER which you described? That is: what did you see, what did you do, and when did you see that he was or was not present at such executions?
A. KALTENBRUNNER was accompanied by EIGRUBER, SCHULZ, ZIEREIS, BACHMAIER, STREITWIESER and some other poeple. KALTENBRUNNER went laughing in the gas-chamber. Then the poeple were brought from the bunker to be executed and then all three kinds of executions: hanging, shooting in the back of the neck and gassing were demonstrated. After the dust had disappeared, we had to take away the bodies.

H3383 - 0016

H3383 – 0017

Handwritten signature: Johann Kanduth

on bottom of page cut off.

Q. When did you see the three different kinds of executions? Were these just demonstrations or regular executions?
A. I do not know if they were regular executions or just demonstrations. During these executions, besides KALTENBRUNNER, the bunker-leaders "Hauptscharführer" SEIDEL and DUESSEN, were also present. The last named then led the poeple down-stairs.

Q. Do you know whether these executions were announced for this day or if they were just demonstrations or if the executions were staged just for pleasure of the visitors?
A. Yes, these executions were announced for this day.

Q. How do you know that they were set for this day? Did somebody tell you about these announced executions?
A. "Hauptscharführer" ROTH, the leader of the crematorium, always had me called to his room and said to me:"KALTENBRUNNER will come to-day and we have to prepare everything for the executions in his presence". Then we were obliged to heat and to clean the stoves.

Q. Do you remember the executions of the English and American military personnel in the year 1945?
A. Yes.

Q. Tell us something about it.
A. The staff went down-stairs. ZILLEIS, BACHMAIER, STREITWIESER, NIEDERMAYER led them. I do not remember if ALTTUDISCH was present too. OHRENSTEIN must know it. SCHULZ was always present. PROKSCH and ROMMEL led them up from the bunker.

Q. Were you employed at the moment of the execution?
A. No.

Q. Do you know who was employed?
A. OHRENSTEIN, the only survivor. I came later. Hauptscharführer ROTH fetched me when the execution were over. The 14 bodies of the Americans lay separatly.

Q. Was there a woman amongst them?
A. I think so. Yes, a woman lay in a coffin.

Q. What did ROTH say to you?
A. He ordered me to go in the refrigerator room and take off the identification-tags.

Q. And the silver indentification-tags from the wrists and the ear-rings too?
A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember having taken ear-rings from one of these bodies?
A. No. I do not remember.

Q. Did you take away the valuables from the bodies?
A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember if there was a pair of ear-rings amongst the valuables?
A. I cannot remember.

Session adjourned at 1800 hours.

Johann KANDUTH.

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WCIT #6836
US Army

Alleged Occurrence: Murder of American and British Prisoners of War

Date: On or about 24 January 1945

At: MAUTHAUSEN Concentration Camp Austria

I N T E R R O G A T I O N

Authority: Par 21, SO 146, Hq ETOUSA, dtd 26 May 45; Organization order #270, Hq ETOUSA dtd 24 Apr 45, AG 322, OpGC.
Par 8 So 113, Hq USFA , dtd 27 Nov. 1945

Oaths: The persons hereinafter named, as reporter, interpreter, witness, appeared before the Investigator-Examiner and each was duly sworn by him in the following respective form:

OATH ADMINISTERED TO REPORTER

"You swear that you will faithfully perform the duties of reporter in this investigation now being conducted by me, so Help you God?" Response: "I do."

OATH ADMINISTERED TO INTERPRETER

"You swear that you will truthfully interpret in this investigation now being conducted by me, so Help you God?" Response: "I do."

OATH ADMINISTERED TO WITNESS

"You swear that the evidence you shall give in this investigation now being conducted by me shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so Help you God?" Response: "I do."

Name of witness: Johann K A N D U T H

Date testimony taken: 20 December 1945

Place testimony taken: SALZBURG, Austria, Hq WCIT 6836

Investigator-Examiner: David G PASTON (Name) Lt Col (Grade) 0-189428 (ASN)

Asst Investigator Cross-Examiner: _____ (Name) _____ (Grade) _____ (ASN)

Reporter: Josef TAUSCH (Name) Civilian Court Reporter (Grade) _____ (ASN)

Interpreter: Louis L CROY (Name) Tec 4 (Grade) 46010206 (ASN)

~~TESTIMONY OF~~: _____

~~Direct examination by:~~

Session convened at: 1635 hours

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Testimony of: LOUIS L CROY, Interpreter

Direct Examination by: Lt Col PASTON

1. Q. State your name, grade and U S Army serial number?
A. Louis L Croy, Technician Fourth Grade, 46010206.

2. Q. When and where were you born?
A. 16 April 1914, in Vienna, Austria.

3. Q. Did you speak German daily while you lived in Austria?
A. Yes.

4. Q. How long did you live in Austria?
A. Twenty five years.

5. Q. Then where did you go?
A. To the United States.

6. Q. What year?
A. 1939.

7. Q. Did you there learn to speak the English language?
A. Yes, by conversation and by going to the law school of the University of Wisconsin. I studied law at the University of Vienna, receiving a Doctor of Law degree in 1937.

8. Q. Did you practice law there?
A. I was court reporter in Vienna for one year, from March 2, 1937, to March 2, 1938. I worked six months in the Anglo-Elementar Insurance Company. I also worked for the law firm of my father for one year.

9. Q. Do you have a knowledge of English?
A. Yes.

10. Q. When you arrived in the United States did you take up the study of the English language?
A. Yes. I attended the University of Wisconsin.

11. Q. Did you graduate?
A. Yes. In June 1942.

12. Q. At the University of Wisconsin Law School only the English language was spoken, is that right?

13. Q. By completing the law course successfully, you demonstrated beyond any doubt your ability to handle the English language, is that right?
A. Yes, and I was duly admitted to practice law in the State of Wisconsin.

14. Q. You consider yourself a qualified interpreter in the English and German languages?
A. Yes.

15. Q. What are your present duties?
A. Pursuant to paragraph 26, SO 81, Headquarters USFET, APO 757, U S Army, dated 4 October 1945, I was assigned to War Crimes Investigating Team 6836 for the purpose of acting as interpreter of German into English and English into German.

ATTEST:

D G PASTON
Lt Col, O-189428
Investigator-Examiner

Louis L Croy

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Testimony of: JOHANN KANDUTH

Direct examination by: Lt Col DG PASTON

Q. You said that you saw a telegram signed by KALTENBRUNNER containing orders to kill 80 Czechs. When did this happen?

A. At the time of the HEYDRICH Affair in the middle of August 1942.

Q. Is that the time when 22 Russian officers were shot?

A. Yes.

Q. How many of them were shot by Dr RICHTER ?

A. Five or six men.

Q. Where were these people when they were shot?

A. Five or six were shot by Dr RICHTER in the refrigerator-room. Some of them were still alive in the refrigerator-room after the execution. In the same way ZIEREIS and STRAUSS also shot five or six each in the refrigerator-room.

Q. Where were you when this happened?

A. I was in the refrigerator-room.

Q. You saw all this with your own eyes?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us what happened one day at 7 o'clock in the year 1944, as a hearse came from WIENER-NEUSTADT?

A. A hearse came from WIENER-NEUSTADT and in the presence of Obersturmfuehrer SCHULZ we had to take out a coffin. We had to bring this coffin into the crematory at once and put it into the furnace. The furnace had not been heated. Therefore, we had to heat the furnace after the coffin was already inside the furnace. SCHULZ was present smoking a cigarette and then he went out into the yard for a moment. He said: "Nobody is allowed to go near the coffin". I was curious, because everthing was done so mysteriously and the coffin was so heavy too. I, therefore, opened the door of the furnace and as I wanted to break open the coffin I succeeded in opening the lid of the coffin just a little. I saw a tall stout man, dressed in German police-uniform. At the same moment I had to close the coffin again, because SCHULZ came back. SCHULZ remained standing near the furnace. As the fire increased, he asked me whether I heard anything. I said: " Yes, the wind howls".

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From SCHULZ's question I concluded that there was the possibility that the man in the coffin was not dead and SCHULZ only asked to know whether I heard the groaning too.

Q. Was this man burned?

A. Yes, in the presence of SCHULZ.

Q. Who told you, that he ought to be burned?

A. SCHULZ..

Q. When did that happen?

A. At the end of 1943 or at the beginning of 1944.

Q. Did SCHULZ tell why this man ought to be burned?

A. No.

Q. Do you know anything about the five girls in MAUTHAUSEN ?

A. Yes.

Q. What did the girls do there?

A. I only knew from Hauptscharfuehrer ROTH in whose room I tidied up some trunks, that they were supposed to be five Russian spies. The trunks which I tidied up were supposed to belong to them.

Q. Were they Russians or Czechs?

A. I do not know.. I did not see them..

Q. How long were these people in MAUTHAUSEN?

A. About ~~six~~ FOUR weeks.

Ja Lee

Q. What happened to these five girls? Are they still alive?

A. I do not believe they are alive anymore.. ORNSTEIN must know that.. I think they were executed..

Q. How do you know that?

A. As already stated, I had to work in ROTH's room. He told me, that the bags mentioned belonged to the girls. Therefore, I believe that the girls were executed.

Ja Lee

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(JOHANN KANDUTH)

Q. Exactly what happened to these girls?

A. I do not know. ORNSTEIN told me, that they were shot. I did not see it myself.

Q. Where are you living?

A. SALZBURG, Solaristrasse 13. To-morrow, I go to LINZ and I am living there in Weissenwolfstrasse 7.

Q. When you will come back?

A. Next wednesday between 1100 and 1200 hours..

Session adjourned at: 1705 hours.

Johann Kanduth

ATTEST:

DAVID G PASTON
Lt Col QMC
Investigator-Examiner

I certify that the above testimony was translated to the witness in his own language, prior to his signature which appears above.

Louis L CROY
Tec 4 46010206
Interpreter

Louis Croy

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Translation of sworn statement of Johann Kanduth

I, Johann Kanduth, make the following statement of my own free will, in connection with the execution of 14 American or English prisoners, which took place on or about 26 January 1945, in the Mauthausen Concentration Camp, Austria.

I was born on 21 December 1908, in Graz, Austria. On 21 Mar. 1938 I was put in the concentration camp because I refused to go to Germany as a worker. In Mauthausen I was assigned to work as a fireman in the crematorium against my will. My job was to carry the bodies out of the execution room immediately after the execution. I also had to wash the blood from the floor, help to burn the corpses, and take care of a furnace. I worked there for four and one-half years, and during that period of work there were sixteen employed there. Of these, seven were murdered by SS personnel.

During the executions from August 1944 until May 1945, I was away most of the time. But usually I was called in after the executions by Hauptscharfuhrer Roth, and had to remvoe the identification discs and valuables, clean them, and turn them over to him. When I had an opportunity, I saved the discs, because I knew only prisoners of war had such tags.

On 24 or 26 January 1945, I saw thriteen or fourteen corpses in the refrigerator room, all shot in the back or the head. These were lying on one side or the room, and on the other side were from thirty to forty other bodies. These thirteen or fourteen looked like Americans or Englishmen, and each one had identification discs. I saw about six sets of American tags, and also several that were longer and thinner. A few had round identification discs. About three or four had heavy silver arm bracelets, with a number on them. I gathered all of these together, and turned them over to Roth, except for about four or five, which I hid and later gave to Wilhelm Ornstein, a fellow worker there. I can no longer remember the names on the tags, with the exception or two. These were "Paris" and "Nelson".

Today, 13 June 1945, I was shown some photographs by Pfc Behling, and I recognized the following persons as being among those shot on 24 or 26 January 1945.

S/Sgt Joseph V. Horvath
Capt. Edward V. Baranski
Pho M 1-c Nelson B. Paris
Daniel Pavletich
Lt. Francis Perry
RM 3/c Charles S. Heller

I had been called immediately after the execution by Roth, and said to him, "Such men, how can one shoot them?" Roth answered, "They are spies."

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I cannot recognize the other photographs, because the faces were full of blood from the shot.

All of the above I have seen with my own eyes, and is the truth. I swear to this.

Johann Kanduth

13 July, 1945

Witnessed by:

s/ Kelly O'Neall Jr.
Kelly O'Neall Jr.
Lt. (jg) USNR

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Ich, Johann Kanduth, mache folgende freiwillige Aussage in Bezug auf die Execution von vierzehn Amerikanischen oder Englischen Gefangenen, welche am oder um den 26 Januar im Konzentrationslager Mauthausen, Österreich, stattgefunden hat.

Ich wurde am 21 Dezember 1908 in Graz, Österreich, geboren. Ich wurde am 21 März 1939, weil ich als Arbeiter nach Deutschland verweigert hatte ins Konzentrationslager eingeliefert. In Mauthausen wurde ich gegen meinen freien Willen als Heitzer im Krematorium gezwungen. Meine Arbeit bestand darin, die Leichname gleich nach der Execution, aus dem Executionsraum zu holen. Ich hatte auch das Blut vom Boden des Executionsraumes wegzuwaschen, half die Leichname der Hingerichteten verbrennen, und musste die dazu bestimmten Öfen betreuan.

Ich habe vier und halb Jahr gearbeitet, und da waren im Betrieb sechszehn Männer beschäftigt. Von diesen wurden sieben von SS Leuten totgeschlagt.

Während der Executionen von Aug. 1944 bix Mai 1945 war ich meistens weg. Aber gewöhnlich, nach den Executionen wurde ich von Hauptscharführer Roth geruft, und musste die Erkennungsmarken und die Wertsachen herunternehmen, reinigen, und die ihm übergeben. Wenn ich die Gelegenheit gehabt hatte, habe ich die Blätter gesparrt, weil ich wusste dass nur Kriegsgefangenen solche Marken tragen.

Am 24 oder 26 Januar 1945 habe ich, 13 oder 14 Körper in Kühlraum gesehen, alle mit Genickschuss. Diese waren auf einer Seite des Kühlraumes legende, und gegenüber waren ungefähr 50 bis 60 ander Körper fer Die 13 oder 14 haben wie Amerikaner oder Engländer ausgesehen, und jeder hat Erkennungsmarken gehabt. Ich habe ungefähr sechs Amerikanischen Erkennungsmarken gesehen, und auch dabei waren einigen die länger und dünner waren. Ein paar haben auch runde Marken getragt. Ungefähr drei oder vier haben schweren, silberen Armbrazeletten mit einem Nummer darauf getragt. Alle habe ich zusammelt, und zum Roth übergegeben, ausser ungefähr vier oder fünf, die ich versteckt habe, und später habe ich die zum Herrn Wilhelm Ornstein, ein Mitarbeiter da, gegeben. Die Namen auf diesen Marken kann ich mich nicht mehr errinern, mit der Ausnahme von zwei. Die waren "Paris" und "Nelson". Heute, den 13 Juni 1945, wurde ich Photographen von Pfc Behling gezeigt, und ich habe die folgende Personen erkennt, die wurden am 24 oder 26 Januar 1945 erschossen:

S/Sgt Joseph J. Horvath
Capt. Edward V. Baranski
Pho M 1/c Nelson B. Paris
Daniel Pavletich
Lt. Francis Perry
RM 3/c Charles S. Heller

Ich wurde gleich nach der Exekution vom Roth geruft, und habe ihm gesagt: "Solche Männer, wie man die erschiessen kann." Der Roth hat geantwortet, "Die sind Spionen."

Ich kann die anderen Photographen nicht erkennen, weil die Gesichten waren voll Blut von Schuss.

Alle die vorgehende habe ich selbst gesehen, und ist die Wahrheit. Dazu schwere ich.

Kanduth Johann

Beglaubigt:
Kelly O'Neall Jr.
Lt. (jg) USNR

13 July. 1945

Johann Kanduth

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ORIGINAL SIGNED STATEMENT OF

JOHANN KANDUTH

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USA 796 (3846-PS)

Filed April 12, 1946
[illegible]

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